

# Bigger is Better:

## The complete life and work of the artist Tom of Finland

In 1998, TASCHEN introduced the world to the masterful art of Touko Laaksonen with *The Art of Pleasure*. Prior to that, Laaksonen, better known as Tom of Finland, enjoyed an intense cult following in the international gay community, but was largely unknown to the broader audience. *The Art of Pleasure* gave Tom well-deserved recognition and increased his following exponentially; *Tom of Finland XXL* will fix him forever in the realm of fine art.

With dimensions of 29 cm by 40.5 cm and 666 pages, *Tom of Finland XXL* contains over 1000 images, covering six decades of the artist's career. The work was gathered from all known collections across the US and Europe, with the help of the Tom of Finland Foundation, and features many drawings, paintings and preparatory sketches that have never been reproduced in any book. Other images have only been seen out of context and will be presented here in the sequential order Tom intended for full artistic appreciation and erotic impact. This elegant, oversized volume will showcase the full range of Tom's talent, from sensitive portraits to frank sexual pleasure, to tender expressions of love to Tom's haunting tributes to young men struck down by the AIDS epidemic.

Completing this collector's edition are eight specially commissioned essays on Tom's social and personal impact by Camille Anna Paglia, John Waters, Armistead Maupin, Todd Oldham, and others, plus a scholarly analysis of individual drawings by art historian

Edward Lucie-Smith.

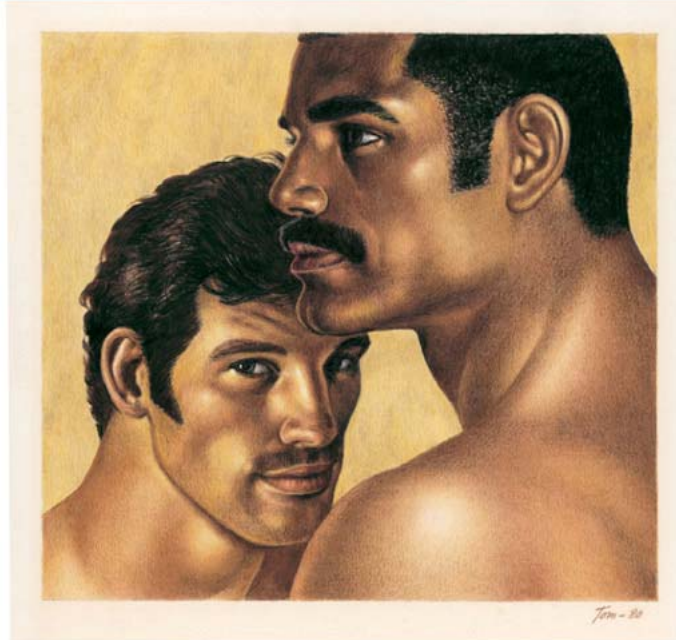
I have chosen to give some brief examples as to the individual writer's depth and scope of talent, so that one can readily appreciate the all-encompassing nature that is this collection.

**Edward Lucie-Smith** was born in 1933 in Kingston, Jamaica, and schooled at Oxford. He has published over 100 books, including *Sexuality in Western Art*, and *Latin American Art of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. He lives in London and travels extensively.

**Armistead Maupin** launched his fictive *Tales of the City* serial in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1976, later released as a six-volume series of novels, three of which were produced as a miniseries for television. He lives in San Francisco with his husband, Christopher Turner.

**Todd Oldham's studio** is a multifaceted design studio for film, photography, furniture, interior décor, books, and even floral arrangements. He lives in New York City and in eastern Pennsylvania with his partner, Tony Longoria.

**Camille Anna Paglia** is the author of five books, including *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson*, her groundbreaking analysis of sexual ambiguity in art and literature. Paglia is currently University Professor of Humanities and Media Studies at University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she lives with her partner, Alison Maddex.



**John Waters** was born in 1946 in Baltimore, Maryland, and briefly attended New York University. He made his first film *Hag in a Black Leather Jacket* in 1964, and has since directed sixteen others, including *Pink Flamingos*, *Polyester*,

*Hairspray*, and *Pecker*. He lives in Baltimore.

For the man—or woman—who thinks bigger is better, *Tom of Finland XXL* is certain to satisfy. ■



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